

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 HONG K 04013 081031Z  
ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01  
STR-04 /072 W

-----081042Z 120203 /11

P R 080928Z APR 77  
FM AMCONGEN HONG KONG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4448  
INFO USLO PEKING  
/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 69

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FOR AGRICULTURE, FAS, FCA, MEEKER AND NOVOTNY

BUENOS AIRES FOR AGATTACHE

FROM AGRICULTURAL OFFICER

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, CH, AR  
SUBJ: CHINA BUYS ARGENTINE WHEAT

REF: (A) HK 3276; (B) BA 2085; (C) HK 3086; (D) HK 2453;  
(E) HK 2412

1. HONG KONG TRADE SOURCE INFORMED AGOFFICER THAT CHINA IS  
BELIEVED TO HAVE PURCHASED UP TO 500,000 METRIC TONS OF  
ARGENTINE WHEAT DURING PAST TWO WEEKS FOR APRIL-MAY-JUNE  
SHIPMENT. SOURCE CONFIRMED HIS FIRM LAST WEEK SOLD  
100,000 MT OF THAT ESTIMATED QUANTITY.

2. COMMENT: ADDITIONAL 100,000 MT MAKES 400,000 MT TOTAL  
CONFIRMED PURCHASES OF ARGENTINE WHEAT, AND POSSIBLY  
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700-800,000 MT IF TRADE REPORTS CONFIRMED. TOTAL CHINA  
WHEAT PURCHASES FOR DELIVERY FEBRUARY 1977 THROUGH JANUARY  
1978 NOW 5.2 MILLION MT (AND COULD REACH 5.5-5.6 MILLION MT  
IF TRADE REPORT CONFIRMED).

3. WITH CONCENTRATION OF 2.5 MILLION MT (NEARLY HALF OF  
CHINA'S CONFIRMED WHEAT PURCHASES OF 5.2 MILLION MT) SCHEDULED

FOR DELIVERY IN 5-MONTH PERIOD FEB-JUNE 1977 -- I.E., BEFORE REPEAT BEFORE BULK OF 1977 WINTER WHARVEST WOULD BECOME AVAILABLE FOR MILLING -- APPARENT URGENCY OF SPRING SHIPMENTS SEEMS REFLECT MORE A PROBLEM OF AVAILABILITY OF GRAIN FROM 1976 HARVEST, RATHER THAN CONCERN OVER 1977 CROP OUTLOOK. TIMING OF DELIVERIES PROBABLY REFLECTS BOTH CONCERNS AND POSSIBLY OTHER FACTORS AS WELL.

4. AGOFFICE BELIEVES THAT TIMING IS MOST PROBABLY REACTION TO APPARENT FAILURE TO FULFILL STATE PROCUREMENT PLAN FOR GRAIN HARVEST OF 1976, UNDERSTANDABLE IN SUCH AN UNPRECEDED EVENT-FILLED YEAR. (SEE REF A). EVEN THOUGH 1976 GRAIN HARVEST WAS OFFICIALLY CLAIMED AS RECORD (NCNA, DECEMBER 29, 1976), FAILURE TO PROCURE ADEQUATE GRAIN TO MEET REQUIREMENTS OF CITIES, INDUSTRIAL CENTERS AND OTHER GRAIN-DEFICIT AREAS WOULD MAKE SUCH CLAIM OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE SINCE IT APPEARS AT THIS TIME THAT CHINA SIMPLY DOES NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT PIPE-LINE WHEAT SUPPLIES TO MEET CURRENT REQUIREMENTS.

CROSS

BT

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NNN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WHEAT, PROCUREMENT  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977HONGK04013  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770123-0033  
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**Message ID:** 380749a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AGRE  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2859829  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CHINA BUYS ARGENTINE WHEAT  
**TAGS:** EAGR, ETRD, CH, AR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/380749a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009